



United States Coast Guard

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MARINE SAFETY INFORMATION BULLETIN (MSIB) 03-07

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COAST GUARD ATTENDANCE OF FIXED & PORTABLE FIRE FIGHTING SYSTEMS SERVICING

This office has noted that the quality of servicing USCG Approved fire fighting systems by companies in the West Africa region has worsened since the issuance of MSIB 05-06. Marine Inspectors have consistently found newly serviced fixed systems inoperable or in a condition that put the crew at extreme risk of CO2 asphyxiation if discharged. For example, portable extinguishers were subjected to improper hydrostatic tests and repaired using non-approved components. Therefore, Activities Europe Marine Inspectors will attend all servicing of fire fighting equipment on U.S. flag vessels.

Owners and operators with vessels operating in West Africa should inform contracted companies that system servicing must be conducted in accordance with NFPA 10 - Standard for Portable Fire Extinguishers, and NFPA 12 - Standard on Carbon Dioxide Extinguishing Systems. Maintenance and service must be done by technicians properly trained, having available the appropriate servicing manual(s), proper types of tools, recharge materials, lubricants, and manufacturers recommended replacement parts. Fixed systems service will be done following the sequence detailed in the manufacturers "instruction and maintenance manual" as required by NFPA 12/1-11.3.2. A full set of drawings must be maintained on the vessel and immediately available for reference.

Furthermore, the service company must be familiar with DOT Hydrostatic test requirements and the applicable sections of 46 CFR 71.25, 107.235, 132.350 and 176.810.

Marine Inspectors will not train service technicians. Their responsibility is to verify the system is properly serviced and in full operating condition. Technicians must be proficient in their ability to complete all required tests, maintenance and repairs. Failure to do so will likely result in the vessel being prohibited from operation pending proper servicing.

Please contact LT Brian Province or LT Ted Harre at the phone number or e-mail address listed above if you have any questions or comments.


J. W. KOSTER

Captain, U.S. Coast Guard
Officer in Charge of Marine Inspection

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